

University of Houston System feasibility study  
(item veto in SB 179, by Jones)

DIGEST:

The general appropriations bill contained a line item in the University of Houston System Administration's appropriation that would have provided \$200,000 to study the feasibility of a branch campus of the University of Houston in the Woodlands area north of Houston.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The proposed study would have been the first step toward establishing a new campus in the Woodlands area. Because Prairie View A&M is in the same area, appropriating state funds to help establish another university nearby would be inconsistent with the state's desegregation plan for higher education.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Jones said he thought Gov. White's appropriations vetoes were less broad than those of previous governors. He said the Governor "treated the appropriations bill rather gently." Regarding the particular item vetoed, Jones said "that veto didn't particularly bother me. The project wasn't going to come about right away anyway."

Conveyance of museum property to city of Austin  
(SB 242, by Doggett)

DIGEST:

SB 242 would have transferred the state's "right of reversion" over certain real property to the city of Austin. The 28 acres of land was deeded to the Laguna Gloria Art Museum, a nonprofit corporation, with the state having a reversionary interest.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

The bill violates Art. 3, sec. 51 of the Texas Constitution, which forbids the Legislature from granting public monies to any individual, association of individuals, municipal or other corporations, with certain exceptions.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Doggett's office said the bill can be rewritten to avoid constitutional constraints. The Laguna Gloria Art Museum is expanding its operations and had sought the transfer of property rights to the city of Austin in hopes of obtaining more financing from the city. The use of the property will not change. The bill will probably be reintroduced in a future legislative session.

NOTES:

HB 1415, by Sutton, also dealing with reversionary rights, was vetoed by Gov. White for the same reason.

Private process servers  
(SB 253, by Washington)

DIGEST:

The bill would have authorized the Secretary of State to license and regulate persons and organizations serving certain civil papers. These private process servers could not have served a writ of attachment, sequestration, or execution, or other paper involving the seizure and detention of property. Fees charged by private process servers could not have been higher than those charged by an officer of the court, and private fees could not have been included in court costs. Licensed process servers would not have been officers of the court.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS FOR  
VETO:

The bill would result in a loss of revenue for governmental entities that now handle service of process. Also, no funding provision was made to cover the extra regulatory work the bill would have generated for the Secretary of State's office.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Washington had no comment on the Governor's veto.

NOTES:

The HSG analysis of this bill appeared in the May 20 Daily Floor Report.